

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

State Capitol, Room 127
Sacramento, CA

Minutes of Meeting
March 22, 2007

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Cathie Bennett Warner, Chair
Wilma Chan
Diane Griffiths
Vicki Marti
Nancy McFadden

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Michele Burton, M.P.H.
Jerome Horton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER PRESENT

Thomas Williams, Department of Finance
Toby Douglas, Department of Health Services

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER ABSENT**CMAC STAFF PRESENT**

Keith Berger, Executive Director
Tacia Carroll
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Mark Klobberdanz
Katie Knudson
Marilyn Nishikawa
Steve Soto
Becky Swol
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Karen Thalhammer

I. Call to Order

The March 22, 2007 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Cathie Bennett Warner.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March 8, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Keith Berger, Executive Director, had nothing new to report. However, he said there were eight amendments and contracts before the Commissioners for review and action as well as a few important discussions regarding negotiation strategies in today's closed session.

Mr. Berger reminded CMAC that the next Commission meeting is on April 12, which is three weeks away, instead the regular two-week period between CMAC meetings, which happens a couple times a year.

IV. Department of Health Services (CDHS) Report

Toby Douglas, Assistant Deputy Director, Medical Care Services, CDHS, began his report by explaining to the Commissioners that he missed last week's meeting due to travel obligations. He said he and CMAC Supervising Negotiator, Paul Cerles, had traveled to the Los Angeles area to tour a few hospitals in financial distress and to receive a better understanding of the hospitals' needs.

In terms of updates, Mr. Douglas informed CMAC that CDHS has been working with the Administration to help hospitals better understand the Governor's health care reform as it relates to them.

In response to a question raised by Commissioner Chan, Mr. Douglas indicated that the recent statement by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reported by the press confirmed that the federal government must provide our State with \$3.4 billion for health care related programs, if the State spends its share as proposed in the Governor's health care reform proposal. He noted that the State would have to secure an additional \$250 million in federal funding through the waiver process.

Regarding the status of the State Plan Amendment (SPA) on physician services, Mr. Douglas reported that CMS has provided CDHS with verbal feedback and that the SPA should be approved soon.

Regarding the Health Care Coverage Initiative, a part of the hospital financing waiver, Mr. Douglas said that CDHS has finished their application process, and plans to make final awards to successful applicants in coming weeks, so they are able to begin their launch of the September 2007 initiative.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no comments from the public, Chair Bennett Warner recessed the open session. Chair Bennett Warner opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair Bennett Warner announced that the

Commission had taken action on hospital and managed care contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.